

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF EL MIRAGE
EL MIRAGE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
14010 N. EL MIRAGE ROAD
TUESDAY DECEMBER 10, 2013**

Minutes

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Lana Mook, Vice Mayor Joe Ramirez, Councilor Roy Delgado, Councilor David Shapera Councilor Jim McPhetres, Councilor Jack Palladino

Excused: Councilor Lynn Selby

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lana Mook at 4:02 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence

III. PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation to Council by Presiding Judge B. Monte Morgan. (Court)

Interim Presiding Judge B. Monte Morgan presented Council with a PowerPoint presentation stating the Court's accomplishments thus far, explaining what the Court is doing now, and outlining the Court's future direction.

Some of the accomplishments presented were 1) renaming of the Court to City Court, 2) implementing a court mission and vision statement, 3) implementing 19 policies and 15 Court operating procedures, 4) assessing the Court's cash handling by the City Finance Department, and 5) restructuring the Court Organization Chart.

He advised Council that based on citation filings the El Mirage Court is currently the 6th largest in Arizona. A reliable photo enforcement process has been developed and the one-time defensive driving school option has been instituted and is now being enforced. He outlined the photo enforcement process in detail and provided current statistics. The warrant issuance process is being streamlined and reduced by the creation of a Warrant Warning Letter. Staffing and training issues are being addressed and jail fees are being implemented.

Moving forward, Judge Morgan stressed "professionalism, progress, access and transparency," citing areas that still need to be addressed; responding to AOC audits, quashing warrants dating back to the 1990s, purging outdated files, assessing budget and recommending alignment to document Court activity and address the need for a new telephone/IVR system as well as a dependable Court recording/retrieval system. He ended by thanking all staff members who were exceedingly helpful in communicating and assisting

the Court during this transition and introducing to Council Director of Court Services Rod Wettlin and Court Supervisor Rayshawnda Davis, both present at this meeting.

Councilors Palladino, Shapera, Delgado, Vice Mayor Ramirez, and Mayor Mook all expressed their thanks and pleasure at the progress made over the past five months with the City Court operations. City Manager Dr. Isom commented that Presiding Judge Morgan is bringing professionalism to the Court and forming a professional team.

2. Update on El Mirage Road (Cactus Road to Grand Avenue) and Thunderbird Road (127th Avenue to El Frio Street) project. (Engineering)

Development & Community Services Director/City Engineer Jorge Gastelum thanked Council for the opportunity to step in to this role and stated he very much enjoys working for the City of El Mirage. Mr. Gastelum introduced Kevin Roberts from Dibble Engineering and Jeff Valesquez from J2 Landscape Architects who are working on the El Mirage Road and Thunderbird MAG project for the specified areas noted. Together they informed Council via a PowerPoint presentation of the project overview covering key design components that included pavement reconstruction, safety improvements and aesthetic characteristics such as landscaping, entry monuments, bike paths and street lighting, as well as funding and the project timeline schedule.

All Councilors and the Mayor expressed their thanks for the update and excitement to see the project completed. As a side note, Mr. Roberts advised Council that he was very pleased to be working with Mr. Gastelum and complimented him on his professionalism and responsiveness. Dr. Isom concurred stating Jorge has worked for the City for seven years and demonstrated his abilities to handle this position.

3. Overview by City Manager on current financial status of City. (Administration)

City Manager Dr. Isom and Finance Director Robert Nilles presented the Council with a PowerPoint presentation detailing the City's current financial condition. Dr. Isom stated the importance of transparency and that this presentation had also been given to all city employees attending the recent All-Staff meeting on November 18th.

Dr. Isom advised Council of the professional regional representation by numerous staff and Council that make El Mirage a participating City in the West Valley; others are taking notice of the advancements being made in El Mirage. Numerous charts and graphs compared the City's financial status from 2009 to today and he pointed out the accomplishments the City has achieved with recession dollars through the Council's prudent and wise investments. Many capital projects have been completed and others are currently in progress. In summary, the City is a healthy and stable organization now ready for growth.

IV. REGULAR SESSION

- A. Public Hearing, closure of public hearing, followed by Council's consideration and action on a request from Epic Worship Center, for a Conditional Use Permit (C.U.P.) to allow Religious Assembly in an Employment/Industry zoning district. (Development and Community Services).

City Engineer Jorge Gastelum presented the C.U.P. request from Epic Worship Center through a PowerPoint presentation showing the area and suggested improvements made by the Planning & Zoning Commission. Pastor Jonathan Gannon spoke on behalf of his congregation and answered Council questions. No other public comments were received and the Public Hearing was closed.

Council Shapera asked about signage and was told that the signage would be temporary because of temporary nature of this location. It was agreed that all signs will comply with the City's signage regulations.

Vice Mayor Ramirez moved to approve the C.U.P. for the Epic Worship Center to allow religious assembly in an Employment/Industry zoning district and any signage is to be compliant with City Code signage regulations; seconded by Councilor McPhetres. Motion carried unanimously (6/0).

- B. Consideration and action to reject the bids that were received for the Dysart Ranchettes Sewer Service Connections (City Project No. EM 13-WW01).

City Engineer Jorge Gastelum explained the need to reject bids received for the Dysart Ranchettes Sewer Service Connections since the cost of this project was not included in the current year's budget.

Vice Mayor Ramirez moved to reject the bids received for the Dysart Ranchettes Sewer Service Connections; seconded by Councilor Delgado. Motion carried unanimously (6/0).

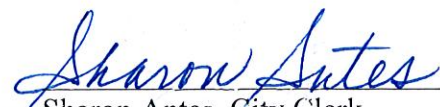
V. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Mook adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.



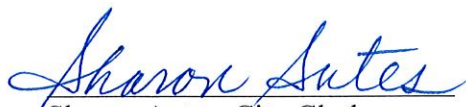
Lana Mook, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sharon Antes, City Clerk

I hereby certify the foregoing minutes are a true and accurate record of the City of El Mirage Special Council Meeting held December 10, 2013 and a quorum was present.



Sharon Antes, City Clerk